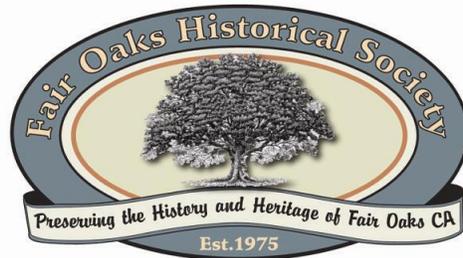


Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – July 2018

Issue Number 126

Ralph Carhart, Editor



www.fairoakshistory.org

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share.

“Services & Programs of the Fair Oaks Library”

Fair Oaks Librarian Tom Grunersen



President’s Message

Jim Pearce

DON’T FORGET!! Tickets for Soup Night (November 2) go on sale at 5:30 pm, prior to the July 24th General Meeting. **Tickets are \$30 per person. A table of nine is \$270 .**

Tickets will probably sell out before the meeting, so if you’re not there, make arrangements for someone else to get yours.

Last newsletter I thanked the members who volunteer to staff the 20+ positions in the Society and keep the party going. We have an estimated 250 members. So what are the other 230 doing? Not everyone has the time to participate. Many are working and

raising families. And, we have a lot of competition. Many choose to put in their “pay back the community” activities in our service clubs, churches, village committees, arts and entertainment and charitable organizations. So I also want to thank the 230 individuals who appreciate what the Society does and who support us financially through their membership. We couldn’t make it without you either.

Our bylaws require the formation of a Nominating Committee at the July General Meeting. The Committee secures candidates for Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President for the 2019 calendar year. Election occurs at the October General Meeting, with new officers taking the oath at the January, 2019 General Meeting. If you’d like to serve on the Nominating Committee or volunteer for one of the elected positions, contact Pat Vogel at 916-966-9703 or pattyvogel4933@gmail.com.

The Making of a Successful Historical Society... Throw a Party

I find some interesting material when going through the old files down at the History Center. Sandwiched between some old papers were the minutes of the first meeting of the Fair Oaks Historical Society, September 24, 1975, sponsored by the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District. Thirty-seven individuals showed up and were declared “Charter Members.” You’d recognize many of the names. They talked about what they would like the Society to do. Lots of research; no mention of food.

Ten years later (August 1985) the membership attendees had dwindled down to ten people. Yes, folded up in another file were the minutes of that meeting. Planted in the middle of all sorts of suggestions on doing historical research was a suggestion by Marsha Karley that maybe we should have “an open house with a potluck dinner, display of historical photos and artifacts... and a speaker.” The group thought that was an interesting idea and decided to hold the event in the Woman’s Thursday Club of Fair Oaks Clubhouse. Fifty-five people showed up with their casseroles and salads. It’s hard to imagine that many people having dinner at the Woman’s Thursday Club.

It was such a success that word spread, and even more people were expected at the next meeting. So, they scheduled it at the Community Clubhouse. Eighty people showed up.

It shows that doing historical research isn’t going to draw a lot of people. But, inviting the community to an open house with a potluck, some interesting exhibits and a speaker will draw a crowd. That’s our current business model, and it seems to be working.

Vice-President’s Message **Ron Lingren**

If you missed the April meeting, you missed a very entertaining program that highlighted the Sierra Branch of the American Theater Organ Society, the history of the theater pipe organ that is housed in the Fair Oaks Clubhouse, a special performance of the organ, and a chance to see the installation that is packed away around the Clubhouse stage.

The story of how the pipe organ came to be housed in Fair Oaks was quite interesting and the musical performance was very entertaining. It took ten thousand hours to complete the restoration and Fair Oaks installation of the organ—the massive instrument originally from a San Leandro movie theater, by way of an interim tenancy at Cal Expo.

The Theater Organ Society performs as part of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Parks District's Silent Movie Nights, with the pipe organ furnishing all the sounds to accompany the old films. The next Silent Movie Night is Friday, January 25, 2019 at 7 pm. (Tickets will be available from the Park District beginning December 13, 2018. \$6 presale; \$8 at the door.)

Photos from our April General Meeting



What's New...

Bob Sours, Wendy Key, Jim Pearce

We've had great interest in our Virtual Walking Tour. That project finally completed, we've looked over our wish list of projects and decided to initiate one that will help our research efforts and aid people exploring families, houses, businesses and the like.

We've already indexed many of the buildings and businesses of Fair Oaks by address so that we can trace the businesses that were there over the years, and track the movement of those businesses around town. We currently have about 2000 entries—all searchable. Next, we'll work on putting the data on our website.

Speaking of the walking tour, we received a request from the Gold River Villagers Group for a guided tour of the Village. The group requested a guide because “on a virtual tour, we can't ask questions.” Good point.

We did the tour several weeks ago and had a great time. Jim was a little worried about traffic, but quickly realized that in Fair Oaks everyone walks down the middle of the street.



A special plea from Bob Sours...

A call for help from your docent, Bob Sours, at the History Center. Requesting all long time residents, including their families and friends, to help us find historical items— documents, photos, artifacts, etc.

Now that we have completed the Virtual Walking Tour we need to add pictures and stories for the buildings known to be on Main Street, but for which we have no records. These include buildings that were destroyed along the way by fire or demolition.

Our list includes: Slocum/Gore Lumber yard, Ling's Store, shoe store, barber shop, McMurray boarding house, blacksmith shop, and Levi Building. All of these buildings were on the left or right side of Main Street between Sacramento Street and Capitola Avenue.



If your search uncovers pictures or stories or memorabilia please contact Bob Sours: bsoliveoil35@gmail.com or Jim Pearce. jpearce4104@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!**

Memorial Day Celebration

Lois Frazier

The Fair Oaks Cemetery District celebrated the 20th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26, 2018. This year focused on honoring Military Chaplains. The guest speaker was Chaplain Gregory Jans. The Master of Ceremonies was Chairman of the Memorial Day Committee, Bob Clouse. Local political representatives also spoke to honor our military casualties from all service branches, with this year's emphasis on the military chaplains.

The flag ceremony and presentations included the "Laying of the Wreath" in memory of military chaplains, buglers and bagpipes. Refreshments were served by the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange and the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Many thanks to all the Society and Grange members for donating cookies.

Memorial Book...

A contribution to the Fair Oaks Historical Society is a very special way to remember those who have passed away or to honor someone for a special event or tribute. The names of those remembered or honored (stating the special event or tribute) are printed in the Memorial and Honor Book which is on permanent display at the History Center.

Recognition of each contribution also will be printed in the newsletter. The amount of the contribution will not be printed in the book or the newsletter.

You can download the recognition/contribution form from our website or pick one up at the History Center or at the quarterly General Meeting. You can also contact Jim Pearce 916-961-8415 or jpearce4104@gmail.com for the form or for assistance.

Membership Reminder

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, we urge you to continue your support of the Fair Oaks Historical Society and the Fair Oaks History Center. You can check your current status on our website: www.fairoakshistory.org

On the top of the home page we've highlighted the "Join, Renew, Donate" link. We've also created a credit card link so you can renew from home. You can also renew at the History Center, at the General Meeting or by mail.

Board Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the, 2018 General Meeting and the detailed Treasurer's report will be available for your review at the July General Meeting. Account balances as of the end of May were: Checking - \$3,941; Savings - \$1,521; CDs - \$33,584; Total - \$39,046.

Soup Night 2018

Friday, November 2, 2018

Soup Night Tickets... go on sale at 5:30 PM prior to the July General Meeting, Tuesday, July 24th. We typically sell out before the start of the meeting, so get there early.

We're beginning our quest for quality raffle items for Soup Night. We will have three raffles— open bidding for the more expensive items, progressive-list bidding for medium cost items, and ticket-in-bag raffle for lesser cost items.

Examples of the donated items we need for successful fundraising include:

- gift cards for restaurants, spas, craft and specialty stores
- gift baskets with food items, garden supplies, kitchen supplies
- hand crafted items pictures, quilts, place mats, scarves, art objects
- NEW clothing
- time shares
- vacation homes
- antiques,
- quality wine

Put on your thinking cap and come up with items that will sell. Ask the people you do business with if they'd wish to donate an item or service. Buy something special yourself to donate— something that you'd be excited to win. We will recognize your donation and you will be helping to keep our History Center open and operating.

Items can be dropped off with Bob Sours at the History Center on weekends or contact Pat Neufeld at pgneufe@gmail.com or 916-698-6654, for pick-up.

We continue to need donations for our General Meeting fundraising raffle. Bring something special to the raffle table prior to the meeting. And be sure to buy some raffle tickets. It's a good way to support the Society, especially if you're a dues-free life member.



Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Jim Pearce

It's amazing how some old homes slip under the radar. Just when we think we've found them all, up pops another one.



About a month ago, Mike Kashuba dropped by the History Center and asked if we knew anything about his home of over thirty years at 8257 Winding Way. The house is located just west of the Chicago Bridge on the north side of Winding Way, down a long driveway. It's generally down in the trees and can best be seen from the air.

Mike has been remodeling and adding on during the 30 years he's lived there so the current ranch style house doesn't bear much resemblance to the original. But, while doing over the attic, he noticed some really old wiring and thought the house was probably built in the 1920's. The only name associated with the home was Stewart. It shows up on the 1910 topographic map, but Steve Abbott and his group couldn't associate it with any family.

That's where the History Center resources help out. We looked on our property maps, and the owner of the property was Al Heim in 1910 and 1920, and Guy Stewart in 1930.

Alvin Heim lived over near Minnesota Avenue, so he probably owned the property as an investment. It's another story with Guy Stewart. We found information on Guy in the public records. He was born in Placerville in 1889 and died in Fair Oaks in 1960. His wife was Grace N. Williamson (1889–1979). They were married in 1914 and had no children. They are buried in the Fair Oaks Cemetery.

Guy Stewart was a lifelong employee of Southern Pacific Railroad, working in many capacities, including conductor in Tracy and finally as a clerk in the Roseville offices. The house is perfect for a railroad man, shaded by the Chicago Creek with not a lot of acreage to maintain. It's to the upper left of the black dot in the photo above. Winding Way is at the bottom with the Chicago Creek Bridge just off the photo on the right.

He is remembered by a number of old timers as a member of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks. He was a good friend of Bob Brugger's father, and Lois Frazier remembers visiting the house when she was a teenager. They remember him as living in the house in question in the 40's and 50's. The 1940 census lists him as saying he lived in the same house in 1935. The 1930 census has him living in the same area, probably in the same house, so he probably bought the property in the 1920's.

A curiosity is the existence of another Stewart family buried right next to Guy and Grace. Dexter Stewart, b. 1837 in New Hampshire, his wife Lucy and three daughters. They are buried next to Guy. The daughters— Winifred married Oscar Cavanaugh, Alice married a Mr. Crane, and Sarah Bessie married Clarence Meader. We suspect a relationship but haven't found it yet. If anyone has any more information, please let us know.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2044
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

TO:

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one: NEW MEMBER APPLICATION DUES PAYMENT

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership level requested:

Individual \$20 Family (2 Persons) \$25 Supporting (Business) \$50
 Single Life Member \$150 Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ _____

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100 Supporter \$250 Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check number _____ Date of check ___/___/___

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)